AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for generating an intermediate laminated product in an aluminum alloy of the Al-Zn-Mg type, said process consisting ~~essentially~~ of:

a) generating a plate by semi-continuous casting, the plate containing (in percentages per unit mass):

Mg 0.5 – 2.0 Mn < 1.0 Zn 3.0 – 9.0 Si < 0.50

Fe< 0.50 Cu < 0.50 Ti < 0.15 Zr <0.20

the remainder aluminum with inevitable impurities, in which Zn/Mg > 1.7;

b) subjecting said plate to homogenization or reheating to a temperature T_1, selected so that $500°C \leq T_1 \leq (T_s - 20°C)$, where T_s is the alloy burning temperature,

c) conducting an initial hot-rolling step including one or more roll runs on a hot rolling mill, an input temperature T_2 of the initial hot rolling step being selected such that $(T_1 - 60°C)\ 5 \leq T_2 \leq (T_i - 5°C)$, and the rolling process being conducted in such a way that the output temperature T_3 is such that $(T1 - 150°C) \leq T3 \leq (T_1 - 30°C)$ and $T_3 \leq T_2$;

d) cooling a strip emerging from said initial hot-rolling step to a temperature T_4;

e) conducting a second hot-rolling step on said strip at an input temperature T_5, the input temperature T_5 being selected such that $T_5 \leq T_4$ and $200°C \leq T_5 \leq 300°C$, and the second hot-rolling process being conducted in such a way that the coiling temperature T_6 is such that $(T_5 - 150°C) \leq T_6 \leq (T_5 - 20°C)$.

2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the zinc content of the alloy is between from 4.0 to 6.0%, the Mg content is from 0.7 to 1.5%, and the Mn content is less than 0.60%.

3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein Cu < 0.25%.

4. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein the alloy is selected from the group consisting of alloys 7020, 7108, 7003, 7004, 7005, 7008, 7011, and 7022.

5. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1, wherein the alloy

additionally contains one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, La, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Lu, Hf, and Yb with a concentration not exceeding the following values:

Sc < 0.50%,

Y < 0.34%,

La, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Lu < 0.10% each,

Hf < 1.20%

Yb < 0.50%.

6. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein said intermediate laminated product has a thickness from 3 mm to 12 mm.

7. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate laminated product is subjected to cold working reduction from 1% to 9%, and/or to an additional heat treatment including one or more points at temperatures between from 80°C to 250°C, said additional heat treatment being able to occur before, after or during said cold working.

8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the temperature T_3 is such that $(T_1 - 100°C) \leq T_3 \leq (T_1 - 30°C)$ and/or the temperature T_2 is such that $(T_1 - 30°C) \leq T2 \leq (T_1 - 5°C)$.

9. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the temperature T_3 is greater than a solvus temperature of the alloy.

10. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the alloy is a 7108 alloy and the temperatures T_1 to T_6 are respectively $T_1 = 550°C$, $T_2 = 540°C$, $T_3 = 490°C$, $T_4 = 270°C$, $T_5 = 270°C$, $T_6 = 150°C$.

11. (withdrawn) A product which can be obtained via the a process according to claim 1 wherein the yield strength $R_{p0.2}$ of said product is at least 250 Mpa, the fracture strength R_m of said product is at least 280 MPa, and the elongation at fracture of said product is at least 8%.

12. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 11, wherein the yield strength $R_{p0.2}$ is at least 290 MPa and the fracture strength R_m is at least 330 MPa.

13. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 11, wherein the zinc content thereof is from 4.0 to 6.0%, the Mg content is between 0.7 and 1.5%, and the Mn content is less than 0.60%.

14. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 13, wherein the copper content thereof is less than 0.25%.

15. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 13, wherein the width of the precipitation-free zones at the grain boundaries thereof is more than 100 μm.

16. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 15, wherein $MgZn_2$ type precipitations at the grain boundaries have an average size of more than 150 nm.

17. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 11, wherein said product has a fibrous structure with grains exhibiting in the short-transverse direction a thickness of less than 30 μm.

18. (withdrawn) A product according to claim 17, wherein said product has a fibrous structure having a thickness/length of grains ratio of more than 60.

19. (withdrawn) A welded construction comprising a product of claim 11.

20. (withdrawn) A tanker comprising a product of claim 11.

21. (withdrawn) An industrial vehicle comprising a product according to claim 11.

22. (canceled)

23. (withdrawn) A motor vehicle part comprising a product according to claim 11.

24. (withdrawn) A structural component in aeronautical construction comprising a product according to claim 11.

25. (withdrawn) A fuselage facing sheet comprising a structural component according to claim 24.

26. (canceled)

27. (withdrawn) A welded construction comprising at least two products according to claim 11 having a yield strength $R_{p0.2}$ in a welded joint between two of said products of at least 200 MPa.

28. (withdrawn) A welded construction according to claim 27, wherein the yield strength $R_{p0.2}$ in the welded joint between two of said products is at least 220 MPa.

29. (withdrawn) A welded construction comprising at least two products according to claim11 having a fracture strength R_m in the a welded joint between two of said products of at least 250 MPa.

30. (withdrawn) A welded construction according to claim 29, wherein the fracture strength R_m in the welded joint between two of said products is at least 300 MPa.

31. (withdrawn) A welded construction according to claim 27 having a hardness in a heat-affected zone of greater than or equal to 100 HV.

32. (withdrawn) A welded construction according to claim 31, wherein the hardness in the heat-affected zone is at least as great as the hardness of those of the a base sheet that has the lowest level of hardness.

33. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein heat treatment operations are carried out on-line, without any heat treatments being carried out separately.

34. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein each step of said process is conducted at a lower temperature than the temperature of a previous step.